

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 96-018-C - ORDER NO. 96-364  
MAY 20 1996

IN RE: Generic Proceeding to Address Local                    ) ORDER  
Competition in the Telecommunications                    )  
Industry in South Carolina.                                    )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for ruling on a number of issues pending in this case. The Commission notes that the parties in this matter have held several workshops and discussions, and now the matter is before us for ruling on various matters.

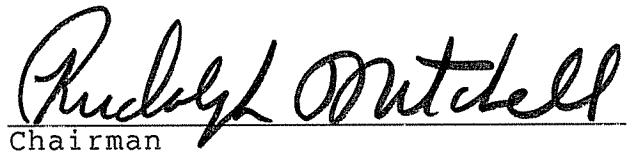
It would appear to be appropriate to hold the hearing in this matter in abeyance until the last quarter of 1996. It has been noted that various proceedings are presently going on at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which could have an effect on local competition in South Carolina. It would appear to this Commission to be the better practice to wait until the last quarter of 1996 before holding hearings, in this Docket to see what, if any, actions have been taken by the Federal Communications Commission that may affect local competition issues in South Carolina.

Also, we believe that the testimony dates for pre-filing of testimony and exhibits previously established by this Commission in our Order No. 96-301, should be held in abeyance until further notice.

After some consideration, it also appears that the better course in this matter is to limit the hearing in the last quarter of 1996 to the issues of universal service, universal service fund, and other related issues, such as lifeline and carrier of last resort. This appears to be proper. Other issues that remain, such as interconnection, unbundling, and resale may be addressed through negotiation and arbitration, consistent with the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Should the Commission deem that additional hearings or workshops are needed, concerning other issues, such as customer service and/or quality standards, the Commission will address these issues at a later time.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)